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Dance Marathon puts on major moves

A year after the most successful fundraiser, Saturday shattered a previous donation record

Hannah Winegar
STAFF WRITER



DANCE MARATHON

LOSE YOURSELF TO DANCE — Hope College's Dance Marathon was a huge success. The children who have been hospitalized at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital were the driving force of the success. Ask any participant, and they'll say, "It was for the kids."

Starting at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 11, hundreds of Hope College students flooded the basketball courts of the Dow for one purpose: to stay on their feet for 24 hours in order to help their miracle kids and families. This year was the 17th annual Dance Marathon to help cover expenses for these families as their children undergo treatment at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dancing to the theme of "For the Kids and Beyond," Dance Marathon was able to bring in a grand total of \$256,323.13, well surpassing their goal, to help those who need it the most: the kids.

Something that kept the dancers going was the presence of their miracle families and being able to see, right in front of them, why they were doing something most people think of as crazy. Snapchat and Instagram were flooded with pictures of various student organizations

and their kids. The walls of the Dow from the front door to the basketball courts were covered with pictures of the kids and their journeys, as well as pictures of those who worked in various

capacities to make this year's Dance Marathon happen. Many miracle parents mentioned how this season of the year is always emotional for them. One in particular mentioned that she

was so young when she had her daughters, both of whom are cancer survivors, it was almost overwhelming to see college students, not much younger than she was when she had her

children, staying up for so long to help her family.

"It was easier [to stay awake] than I expected because the board did such a great job of having stuff around to keep us both on our feet and awake," Ellen Disher ('19) said, who was a moraler in her first experience with Dance Marathon.

Bounce houses were there for both those dancing and the miracle families in order to keep the energy level high. To break up the monotony that can be 24 hours in the same room with the same people, almost every hour had its own theme. People came loaded with duffle bags to participate in things such as crazy hat hour and pajama hour. All sorts of other events were going on all over the place, like a mass Euchre tournament, games of Lightning and cornhole. Chapel band came in Saturday morning to perform, and different teams, like Greek Life, dorms and sports teams,

SEE DANCE, PAGE 2

'Poverty, Inc.' to be shown at the Knick

Award-winning documentary explores how western efforts to combat extreme poverty has led to mixed results

Alex Belica
WORLD CO-EDITOR

How do you alleviate poverty in developing countries around the world? Are the current methods of attacking poverty solving the problem or perpetuating it? It is a complicated set of questions that Hope College students will soon get to weigh in on.

On Saturday, April 2, the Markets and Morality student group on campus will be screening the new award-winning documentary "Poverty, Inc." for free at 7 p.m. in the Knickerbocker Theatre. The group is also hosting a discussion immediately afterward and providing free concessions to all attendees.

"Poverty, Inc." tackles the difficult topic of how well-intentioned efforts to help those in need by governments, charities and even private corporations often does not produce the intended outcome. For instance, the filmmakers document how free clothing and

goods donated to countries such as Haiti quickly eliminate any market for locally produced alternatives, which destroys small businesses, and sends would-be entrepreneurs and their employees back into poverty. Add in organizations and companies that profit from this viscous cycle of poverty and the filmmakers demonstrate why ineffective poverty, alleviation programs often persist in the face of evidence.

Producers conducted over 200 interviews in 20 nations to make "Poverty, Inc.," giving the film a global perspective that has been praised by critics. Over the last year, the film has racked up nearly 40 official selection honors at a diverse array of domestic and international film festivals, earning more than 12 awards in the process. Hope's screening will be the latest for a documentary that has now been shown over 150 times in 16 different countries.

Despite its worldwide audience, "Poverty, Inc." has lo-



ACTON INSTITUTE

CAN'T BEAT FREE — Documentary explains how food aid provided by the U.S. might combat starvation in the short term in developing nations but it also drives out local production.

cal origins. The film was developed and produced by the Grand Rapids-based Acton Institute, a Christian free-market think tank and educational organization.

According to Acton Institute's Executive Director Kris

Maure, the documentary's success is attributable to people across the ideological spectrum who recognize that the method's ways of attacking poverty are inadequate.

"On issues of international development and foreign aid,

our country is at a tipping point," Maure said. "While entrenched interests remain, mounting evidence is causing people of all political stripes to question whether their

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ARTS

Chapel Choir SB '16

The Hope College Chapel Choir takes on the Big Apple.

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FEATURES

Bracketology 101

Here's a chance for you to fill out your March Madness bracket. It's the last day to do it, so get moving.

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SPORTS

Hope retains lead of commissioner's cup

Through the fall and winter seasons, Hope remains on top of the MIAA.

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THIS WEEK AT HOPE

Wednesday Mar. 16**Wind Ensemble Concert**

Tonight, Hope College's Wind Ensemble will perform a pre-tour concert. The program will be played throughout the Midwest, as they travel over spring break. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Jack H. Miller Music Center.

Wednesday Mar. 16**The Discussion**

Phelps Hall is sponsoring a Bible study in the Dewitt Center from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. Students are invited to join.

AFTER BREAK AT HOPE**Tuesday March 29****Greek Life Apparel**

The Kappa Delta Chi sorority will be selling Greek Life apparel from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Dewitt Center lounge.

Tuesday March 29**AED resumé workshop**

The pre-health profession fraternity Alpha Epsilon Delta will be working with students to improve their resúmes for future use. A faculty member from the Career Development Center will be presenting as well. The event begins at 5 p.m. in the Schaap Science Center, room 1019.

Wednesday March 30**French Film, "The Class"**

The film is centered around a French literature class that proves to be difficult for a teacher, Marin, who struggles with relate with his students. The movie begins at 6 p.m. in the Van Wylen Granberg Room.

Friday April 1**Women's and Gender Studies Lecture**

Jeanne Petit will be presenting, "Women, Gender and World War I" in the Maas Center Conference Room. The presentation begins at 2 p.m.

Friday April 1**Failure Lab**

This event takes a look at how to cope with failure in the real and academic world. Examples will be shared, and tips will be given on how to power through the rough times. The event will be at the Knickerbocker Theatre starting at 7 p.m.

Saturday April 2**Euchre Tournament**

Habitat for Humanity is hosting a euchre tournament in order to raise awareness for Habitat for Humanity. The games begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Martha Miller Rotunda.

**THE ANCHOR STAFF
WISHES EVERYONE A
SAFE AND ENJOYABLE
SPRING BREAK**

Dance Marathon raises the bar

♦ Dance from page 1

participated in the annual lip sync battle. Throughout the night, different members of the planning committee taught sections of line dances and brought in a professional Zumba instructor to keep things interesting.

Dance Marathon is more like a season at Hope rather than just one 24-hour span of time. The planning committee has been working tirelessly for over seven months to coordinate all of the moving parts, recruiting dancers and organizing everything they needed to make Dance Marathon all that it could be. Multiple people involved credit every bit of this event's success to those working behind the scenes. The planning committee did a superb job of making sure everything ran smoothly. Those interested in participating next year should start looking at Dance Marathon on social media or Hope's website sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

A response to "Welcoming change in Holland"

The new gateway sign is certainly a modern take for Holland but is it too much?

Alek Molenaar

CAMPUS EDITOR

@ALEKMOLE

I am going to disagree with one of Nicole Metzler's ('16) points regarding the new signs that are replacing the old ones in the Holland area. I am all for change. I realize that in this day and age Holland is a multicultural society that is rapidly changing. It's a refreshing thing to see, but Holland is still deeply rooted in Dutch tradition. That's where my problem arises with the new signs, particularly the gateway sign. The new gateway sign to Holland will be changed to this stark, metal sign that doesn't give any appreciation to Holland's roots.

The other signs, which include "vehicular directional" and "trailblazer" designs, are fine because they are vibrant and give way to important locations. But my issue is with the first sign people see on their way into Holland. For years I grew up seeing my grandparents in Holland, and I even swept the streets during Tulip Time as a kid. I'm not saying the we shouldn't move forward as Holland's demographic keeps changing (again



ALEX BELICA

JUST NOT THE SAME — Seeing the old sign go toward the modern movement feels like it loses some of its history.

I think it's a good thing) but I don't think we need to forget introducing travelers to Holland's roots.

I think a better solution for the gateway sign would have been to either repaint it or replace it with a new wooden replica. This sign could have all new colors and still have the "welkom" greeting and tulips brandishing the sign. The metal sign just doesn't hit the right notes with me because it's not very aesthetic.

"Holland" is on a vertical plane, which doesn't make it

any easier to read, and is then brandished by what appears to be interweaving steel beams. The beams are supposed to represent rows of tulips, but this is not easily seen. The metal beams are also a dull silver color, which isn't even representative of the various Holland colors at Tulip Time. I feel that the city commissioned the wrong re-branding of the signs.

Holland is a growing and changing city, but that doesn't mean we should rule out the deeply-rooted Dutch culture.

'Poverty Inc.' looks to find efficient ways to stop poverty

♦ Poverty from page 1

actions are really helping the poor. This is where 'Poverty, Inc.' comes in. Operating under the conviction that thoughtful documentaries change culture, we designed 'Poverty, Inc.' to spearhead a broad reconsideration of poverty that is nonpartisan but pro-market.

Markets and Morality members think that a screening on Hope's campus is needed to ignite a corresponding conversation.

"We're bringing this film because we believe it has broad appeal across campus and to members of the Holland community," Morgan Weaver ('16) said, a Markets and Morality member helping to plan the event. "If you think you might ever work for, volunteer with or donate to a ministry, nonprofit, NGO or any similar organization, 'Poverty, Inc.' deals with issues that will directly affect your efforts to help. It should also appeal to anyone who is interested in the effects of our policy decisions, especially in light of this election season, or who simply care about our brothers and sisters who are in poverty around the globe."

The screening will be followed by a discussion led by Political Science professor

Virginia Beard and Economics professor David Phillips who both have conducted substantive research on poverty in the developing world.

The upcoming screening has already generated considerable excitement on campus with 15 student organizations and campus departments signing on as co-sponsors.

"We've put a lot of thought into our overall event here at Hope," Sarah Estelle, the faculty advisor for Markets and Morality, said. "[We] know that the opportunity cost of a couple hours on a Saturday night is high, so we want to make sure that the screening at the Knick is characterized by community and hospitality. Free popcorn and pop, book giveaways and a high-quality faculty panel might make the difference getting some of the audience through the door, but after that, the film will speak for itself. You will not be disappointed."

Do you want a school group or club in print?
Contact aleksandrsmolenaar@hope.edu
for more details.

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Increasing tension marks Trump rallies

Clashes with protestors, slurs, increasing violence may mar the GOP Presidential candidate

Alex Swain
Co-EDITOR WORLD
@DNAALSWAIN

On Friday, March 11, Donald Trump was forced to cancel a rally in Chicago after several violent outbursts occurred between protestors of the event and supporters of Trump within the arena. Trump had taken the stage at the University of Illinois-Chicago, a campus known for ethnic and religious diversity, when an announcer told the crowd that the event was officially over.

As it turns out, hundreds of protestors had filled several sections of the arena and had, according to the New York Times, promised to be a "visible presence."

Thousands of Trump's supporters had waited hours to get into the event, and were understandably furious that the rally was cancelled. However, the city of Chicago, historically a democratic stronghold with roughly equal populations of Latinos, blacks, and whites had grown increasingly incensed at Trump hosting a rally at the university. A number of Professors and students



STRONG WORDS, STRONG SENTIMENTS? — (Left) Trump claiming via Twitter that Sanders was lying and that Sen. Sanders was purposefully sending protestors to disrupt his rally. (Right) Trump claiming that the renown and well awarded newspaper the New York Times is purposefully lying and "not fact checking" Trump's statements.

attempted to pass a petition such that UIC would publically state that they do not endorse nor support Trump and that his rhetoric is antithetical to the mission of the university itself.

Hours before the event began, it was reported that protestors were being led out, one by one, while many more continued to actively debate those favoring Trump. A statement released by Trump read that he had "determined that for the safety of all of the tens of thousands of people that have gathered in and around the arena, tonight's rally will be postponed to another

date."

To thicken the situation, Trump claimed in a Tweet on Sunday, March 13, "Bernie Sanders is lying when he says his disruptors aren't told to go to my events. Be careful Bernie, or my supporters will go to yours!" In a presumably passive retort, the official Bernie Sanders' Twitter account, @BernieSanders, stated, "Violence is not acceptable in the American political process. We should condemn violence not encourage it. #DemTownhall."

Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Ted Cruz and Governor

John Kasich condemned the outbursts and interruptions that occurred at the rally. Additionally, Cruz claimed that Mr. Trump himself was responsible for these outbursts of violence, particularly that Trump "affirmatively encourages violence."

Cruz is not entirely wrong in making this accusation. At the rallies themselves, racial slurs, nasty rhetoric, and violence are increasingly common phenomena. In just one instance, an Arab-American member of the Press, Yasmeen Alamiri, was called a terrorist twice. In

yet another moment of obvious racism, as she was walking past a police officer, a man asked if he was there "for this terrorist," gesturing to Alamiri.

But Trump himself, with his vitriolic choice of words and fiery opinions, is certainly (in part) to blame for the violence of his supporters. Trump said, "If you see somebody getting ready to throw a tomato, knock the crap out of them, would you? Seriously. Okay? Just knock the hell — I promise you, I will pay for the legal fees."

He also said, regarding a protestor at a rally on Feb. 22, "I'd like to punch him in the face, I'll tell ya." On Wednesday, March 9, a 78-year-old white male at a Trump rally in North Carolina was videotaped punching a black protestor being escorted from the event by the police.

Trump's anti-media rhetoric is also increasingly causing tension. Katy Tur, the Trump embed for NBC news, declared in a Tweet, "Trump trashes press. Crowd jeers. Guy by press 'pen' looks at us & screams 'you're a b-word!' Other gentleman gives cameras the double bird." The language used by Trump may continue to inspire unrest.

How to protect US teens from ISIS influence

Impending Senate legislation could hold the key to counter-radicalization of youth

Hunter Ihrman
GUEST WRITER

Since December of 2013, the U.S. State Department has ramped up its efforts to counter Islamic State (IS or ISIS) recruitment through social media. A program dubbed "Think Again Turn Away," from the State Department's Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC)—a relatively small agency—writes anti-ISIS tweets and releases anti-ISIS videos. Sadly, the State Department's attempt to play the "hip parent" in the world of digital teenagers has been nothing more than a flop. But one U.S. Senator has introduced legislation that might be the key to rolling back ISIS' reach on the Web, once and for all.

In this 21st-century world where 92 percent of teens go online daily, the Internet is almost like another parent. A teenager's views, friendships, and understanding of the world are shaped by digital interaction. But when that shaping force has an ISIS terrorist at the other end, the Internet becomes a dangerous weapon.

Before 9/11, and even several years after the event, most Americans visualized terrorism as a foreign "lone wolf" striking from abroad. Social media, however, has led to the recruitment of "homegrown" terrorists. Our

favorite apps like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram have the power to connect a 13-year-old girl in her bedroom to a 42-year-old terrorist living continents away. In 2014, U.S. authorities apprehended three teenage girls from Denver who were attempting to travel to Syria. Nowhere else in recent American history have we seen the abandonment of first world comforts for violent third world conflicts like we have seen with the Islamic State.

That is why an agency dedicated to countering online extremism is so necessary. Currently, the CSCC is one of the "leading" organizations that work to counter ISIS digital recruitment. With its low budget of \$5 to \$6 million dollars, the CSCC falls far behind ISIS's claimed budget of \$2 billion. Clearly this low CSCC budget is taking its toll when the best state department videos look like Windows Movie Maker in comparison to the slick ISIS media.

U.S. government tweets and videos are laughable in comparison to the propaganda churned out by Al Hayat—the official media department of ISIS. Without a doubt, an adequate response is sorely needed.

In December of 2015, U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced key legislation that may hold the answer to the question of how to prevent youth recruitment by ISIS. S.

2418, or the "Countering Online Recruitment of Violent Extremism Act of 2015," would create "Countering Violent Extremism" (CVE) labs at American universities. These labs incorporate student ingenuity with technology to create counter-media against ISIS. The main reason that current anti-ISIS media is ineffective is due to the fact that a 30-to-50-year-old bureaucrat designs it. An ad made by a 30 year old is not going to appeal to a 15 year old, and vice versa. If teens are the bread and butter of ISIS recruiters, then government officials should work with teenagers to prevent further recruitment. After all, who knows what appeals to teenagers better than teenagers? Senator Booker's legislation does just that. In CVE labs, 18-21 year olds create

counter-ISIS videos and images that also appeal to 18 to 21-year olds.

ISIS media strongly appeals to Western teens that look for a purpose and a place to fit in. Unfortunately, this is often a Jihadist war. With CVE labs the opportunity exists to staunch the flow of ISIS recruits from western countries to the Middle East.

Parents can surely imagine the heartbreak that would ensue if their child abandoned their entire life to join a violent extremist group like ISIS. Since S. 2418 was introduced in December, no action has been taken. How can we expect a serious response to the threat of ISIS, if we underestimate ISIS recruitment prowess?

The heart of the issue regrettably lies in a misunderstanding


of societal norms. Too many parents still believe that social media is not as impactful on their child as actual human contact. But clearly, as this past year has shown, social media wields great impact on teenagers of the 21st generation.

Rather than stand on the sidelines and watch a good policy stall because of partisan squabble, let's take action and make a real difference. Good policy is good policy, regardless of the political affiliations of those who introduce it. Now is the time to mail letters, write emails, and make phone calls to elected officials. Often, forms of political efficacy are only a few digits away. You can call (202) 224-3121 in order to contact your congressperson through the Congressional switchboard.

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HopeChurchRCA.org

Egyptian politicians battle over veil requirements

Ryan Skowronek
STAFF WRITER

In a 1958 address, President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt mocked the Muslim Brotherhood for wanting to institute a law that would make the hijab mandatory for women. The audience laughed at the absurdity of the notion. Earlier that year, the United Press published an article about Egypt, stating that although the hijab is common in most Muslim nations, "the veil is unknown here." President Nasser was both a devout Muslim and a strong proponent for secular politics and social justice.

Since the 1970s, which featured an influx of Muslim women who wore the hijab, niqab or burqa for traditional reasons rather than religious ones, some Middle Eastern countries, such as Turkey, have instituted bans on these garments, while others have made them mandatory, including Saudi Arabia and southern Iraq. Egyptian women began removing their veils in resistance to the short-lived rule of the Muslim Brotherhood after the Arab Spring in 2011.

Egypt's secular government has never encouraged women to wear the niqab, which covers all of one's body except for the eyes,



NIQAB — A young woman wearing a niqab on the square in front of the Hassan II Mosque. A niqab is a veil that covers the face where a burqa also covers the eyes in a thin translucent fabric.

nor the burqa, which covers even the eyes with a partially transparent cloth. In 2009, Egypt's Ministry of Religious Endowments developed a campaign against the niqab by educating citizens that it is not a requirement for Muslim women. The campaign suggested women who should no longer wear them. Nevertheless, both are very common among Egypt's

Muslim population. The niqab has been banned from being worn by hospital and academic staff members. Now, the Egyptian parliament has begun drafting a law seeking to ban the niqab and burqa in public locations.

Dr. Amna Nosseir from the prestigious Al-Azhar University stated that the veil is not a requirement of Islam but has

its roots in Judaism prior to the foundation of Islam. "In the Talmud, if a woman leaves her house without her head and face covered, she is breaking Jewish religious law." She noted that the Quran requires women to wear modest clothing and cover their hair, but it does not refer to concealing their faces. "How did Islam impose the niqab if [Muslim men] are asked in the

Quran to lower their gaze?" Nossier said.

However, Fouad Abdel-Moneim, a professor of religion at Al-Azhar University, rebuked the law, claiming that Islam urges women to protect their modesty and that banning the niqab would undercut personal freedoms. Instead, he proposed that a law be passed that prevents women from wearing revealing clothes.

"Communities are destroyed wherever immorality spreads," Nossier said.

It is estimated that nearly 90 percent of Egyptian women wear some variety of a veil. Many dissenters of the proposed law profess that the burqa and niqab protect women from lustful men. However, a study by the United Nations in 2013 found that a shocking 99.3 percent of women have been sexually harassed with 96.5 percent of those respondents having been physically assaulted. Moreover, 86.4 percent of the respondents stated that bystanders did not attempt to stop the harassment.

These facts suggest that niqabs and burqas do little to protect women from being attacked. Instead it seems apparent that more action is needed in Egypt to bolster enforcement of laws against sexual assault.

German political landscape shifts right

A fledgling party, Alternative for Deutschland, is challenging Merkel's dominate CDU coalition

Kaan Kurtulus
STAFF WRITER

Angela Merkel has been the chancellor of Germany for quite some time now. She assumed office in 2005, only 5 years after she became the leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). Since then, she has played a pivotal role in not only German politics, but European and global politics as well. Merkel is sometimes credited for shaping Germany into the largest European superpower of today.

Immigration has recently been one of the hottest topics in the world, particularly in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants have spilled over numerous borders in an attempt to flee violence caused by the Syrian civil war and the rise of ISIS.

Chancellor Merkel has instituted an "open-door" policy for the migrants, particularly for those fleeing the Syrian civil war and ISIS, but this has raised many questions among the German people, even for supporters of Merkel. Merkel's open door policy allowed approximately one million asylum seekers into Germany.

Germany will be holding state elections in three regions that will soon give voters a chance to either endorse or reject German immigration policies. These particular regions are proving to be a

test for Chancellor Merkel and her party. This will be the first opportunity German people will get to show how they stand against Merkel's immigration politics. Much like the Greek elections last year, when Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras called an elections there a "referendum for his politics," some might view this a referendum on Merkel's immigration policies.

Exit polls didn't look particularly bright for Merkel, showing a lot of backlash regarding her policies among the voting populace. This has been seen via the huge vote slide to the opposing, and far more conservative, "Right-Wing" party, Alternative for Deutschland (AfD).

This party is a far right, nationalist party led by a woman named Frauke Petry, who in recent months shocked the world by saying the police should shoot the immigrants at the border, if it's necessary. Her staunch anti-immigration platform has led her to being called Germany's "Trump." But, like Trump with a large swath of the American populace, Petry is striking a cord among Germans.

The AfD is also a relatively young party that formed only three years ago. The party completely and harshly opposes Merkel's immigration policy. Petry, at one point, asked Germans to have more children so the need for immigrants



CANDIDATE FRAUKE PETRY SPEAKS AT AN AfD RALLY — The young vibrant politician is rallying many Germans together on a primarily anti-immigrant/migrant platform.

would be reduced. This might be one of the reason for the dramatic rise in support to the party.

Despite its stellar rise, the AfD has been the recipient of harsh criticism for its immigration policy, being too extreme. Chancellor Merkel said that the AfD "does not bring society together and offers no appropriate solutions but only stokes prejudices and divisions."

Der Spiegel, a weekly German news magazine, put AfD leader Frauke Petry on the cover with the cover reading "The preachers of Hate."

Matthias Korttman, a political science professor from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, made interesting points about the AfD and the future of German Politics. He said, "How the refugee crisis evolves and what's done about it will determine how far the AfD can ultimately go... We can make a comparison with the popularity of Donald Trump in the United States," he said. "The

interest in AfD in Germany is partly because its leaders are saying something that others won't, but the party doesn't actually have a manifesto or that many specific ideas about policies."

These results could put a lot of pressure on Merkel, as she tries to push through an European Union deal with Turkey to limit the numbers of refugees entering Europe.

Want to write for the World Section? Email:

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Chapel Choir embarks on spring break tour

Hannah Winegar
STAFF WRITER

Hope College's Chapel Choir will be heading east for its annual spring break tour. Led by Dr. Brad Richmond, the ensemble has already been preparing for its trip for a number of months.

"Last semester we started reviewing a few pieces of music," Hope Hancock ('16), Chapel Choir vice president, said, who will be embarking on her third Chapel Choir tour. "We also rehearse four hours a week."

The ensemble's performances consist of an hour and a half of

music. The set list is made up a variety of musical genres, including German, Latin and Gospel. The tour programs also include translations of songs sung in different languages.

Chapel Choir kicked off their tour on Sunday, March 6 in a performance at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan and continued their travels on March 13 by performing at Third Christian Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Next, they will move on Rochester, Fishkill and Claverack, New York between March 17 and 20. From there,

they perform in Colts Neck and Hillsborough New Jersey on March 21 and 22 before returning to New York City to perform at St. Paul's Chapel, right on Broadway.

Not only is Chapel Choir able to perform for so many churches, they are also able to help some of these churches celebrate milestone anniversaries.

"There are a handful of churches that we are singing at that are celebrating their 250th or 300th year of existence," Jamie Steinman ('16), Chapel Choir treasurer, said. "It is an honor that we have been invited

to sing and participate in their year-long celebrations!"

While this is certainly a milestone for the Chapel Choir, this is not their most exotic tour. In the past, they have toured South Africa and performed in churches, at universities, inner city missions and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) clinics. As a group, they have a reputation of being invited to sing in various congregations throughout the country. They have also sung in vocal competitions of all kinds.

However, even though they are staying closer to home this

year, it does not deter the attitudes of those involved.

"I am looking forward to this tour and the different experiences I'm sure it will present because of the people that are in Chapel Choir this year," Steinman said. "This is one of the most musically sound and gifted ensembles I've ever been a part of, so I'm really excited to see how we grow as a group during tour."

To close their 2016 tour, Chapel Choir will perform for the Hope and Holland communities on March 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jack H. Miller Concert Hall.

PERSPECTIVES

Rend Collective performs in Grand Rapids



TODAYSCHRISTIANMUSIC.COM

Becky Downing
ARTS Co-EDITOR
@BECKYJODOWNING

On Saturday, March 12, my friends and I made the drive over to Grand Rapids to see Rend Collective perform. This concert sort of snuck up on me. My friend had asked me if I wanted a ticket back in December, and since then, I had forgotten about the event. However, I'm so glad that I made the decision to see this Irish worship band in person. Their concert was an event full of worship, but it didn't lack the theatrics and fun of a concert.

Rend Collective formed after its members met at Rend, a ministry for young adults in Bangor, Ireland. The group has since released six albums, including their most recent album, "As Family We Go." Rend Collective has switched out members over the years, but its most recent line-up consists of Gareth Gilkeson, Chris Llewellyn, Ali Gilkeson, Patrick Thompson and Stephen Mitchell.

The performance was part of their "As Family We Go" Tour and took place at Sunshine Community Church. Hundreds of people gathered in the enormous sanctuary after buying snacks and Rend Collective t-shirts from the lobby. The stage was already set for the band, decorated in banners reading "Rend Collective" and twinkling lights. When it came time for the opening band, Urban Rescue, to come out, the audience was surprised to see the main group instead. The Rend Collective members announced that the lead singer of

Urban Rescue was having some vocal problems, so audience members should "pretend we're not Rend Collective. Instead, we're The Rend Collectors."

The band played an impromptu cover of "10,000 Reasons," and afterwards, member Thompson stayed onstage to inform the audience about Compassion, a nonprofit organization that allows partners to sponsor impoverished children. Rend Collective encouraged audience members to consider sponsoring a child through Compassion, passing out the organization's pamphlets throughout the concert and setting up a Compassion booth in the lobby. Thompson explained that Rend Collective's goal is more than just playing worship music, emphasizing the need for service and missions.

After Compassion volunteers were finished passing out information, the show began. My friend and I ran to the front of the stage as Rend Collective (not The Rend Collectors) took to the stage.

The band played a variety of instruments, and often, members switched around to different instruments during one song. However, Llewellyn stuck to lead vocals, acoustic guitar and ukulele throughout the entire performance. I was very surprised to see just how interesting and unique each instrument was.

For example, at one point, Mitchell plucked a string bass made out of a suitcase. Gareth Gilkeson also banged on a trashcan, and enthusiastically played a stump fiddle, which consists of a long stick with

wire, bells and a drum attached to it. Gilkeson would slam the stick against the ground and hit its drum repeatedly.

Every member performed with this enthusiasm. Each would run around the stage and crash cymbals, jump off of platforms and jump with the audience. They even shot confetti, had a bubble machine and threw glowing bouncy balls into the audience. By the end of the first couple songs, I was already sweating. Seeing Rend Collective's energy made it impossible to stand still.

Perhaps the best moment, though, happened during their song "Praise Like Fireworks." After the song's bridge, the lights went black, and the music stopped. After this break, the lights lit up the stage, revealing that the band members had put on costume panda heads. They finished the song with these on, and the crowd went wild the entire time. Afterwards, lead singer Llewellyn explained the reasoning behind the costumes.

"There may be some of you who try to overanalyze the panda head thing," said Llewellyn. "In the Bible, there are many fruits of the spirit. Seriousness isn't one of them. That's our theology behind the panda heads."

However, Rend Collective did finish the night with a serious time of worship, singing their song "Simplicity" which includes the words, "Lord strip it all away till only You remain. I'm coming back to my first love."

Overall, I found a new love in Rend Collective after watching them perform live.

'Zootopia' embraces diversity



Becky Downing
ARTS Co-EDITOR
@BECKYJODOWNING

I've got to be honest; I wasn't that excited to see "Zootopia." I had seen some previews of the movie before heading to the theater, and I was not all that impressed. I thought the idea of making a movie about a town inhabited by animals with jobs and clothes seemed odd. I thought Disney could do better.

However, after seeing the movie, I was happily surprised. "Zootopia" is an entertaining film with a big message that resonates with the time of racial division the U.S. is going through right now.

"Zootopia" follows the story of Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin), a rabbit from Bunny Burrow, who becomes the first rabbit cop of Zootopia, a metropolitan city buzzing with anthropomorphic animals. She's greeted with dismay at the police station and decides to prove her abilities by tackling a missing-animal case. Along the way, a shady fox named Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman) takes a break from hustling to help her. The pair uncover a case that pits predator against prey, threatening the accepting ideals Zootopia was founded on.

Within the first few minutes of the movie, I knew it would be making a political statement. Hopps is shown as a young bunny expressing her belief in the power of working hard to achieve her goal. Everyone around her tells her to settle for a life as a carrot farmer, explaining that rabbits will never be taken seriously as cops. However, she later graduates from the police academy at the top of her class, breaking the social constraints previously put on her.

Another major hint at a political statement occurs when animal predators become the center of the commotion in Zootopia. Many prey animals declare that predators do not belong, so cheetah Officer Ben-

jamin Clawhauser (Nate Torrence) is moved from his post at the police station's front desk to a new position downstairs. He explains to Hopps that the animals in charge think it would be best if a predator was not the first one seen when a citizen of Zootopia walks through the station doors.

This moment, and many others, had me trying to pinpoint which animal group was taking the role of majority and minority. The movie states that prey make up 90 percent of Zootopia; however, Hopps is a prey animal, and she finds it very hard to earn respect as a cop. Furthermore, the town is run and patrolled by mostly predators; however, they are later seen as the dangerous ones. Disney does a fantastic job of blurring the lines. One animal group is not fully portraying white privilege or minority circumstances. I couldn't assign roles.

In addition to this theme of racial equality, Disney tackles the issue of the police's role in the expansion of systematic racism. This is obviously a topic that has come to light in the news over the past couple years. Similar to the issue of race, this topic also isn't "black and white." Disney portrays good and bad qualities of the police force in Zootopia.

This is best seen in the character of Chief Bogo (Idris Elba), a cape buffalo in charge of the police force. He is first seen as the movie's antagonist, refusing to take Hopps seriously as a cop. However, as the force later faces trouble, his ideals are changed.

Overall, a movie that I thought would be cheeky ended up being extremely deep, tackling the important issues are country so desperately needs to tackle. Therefore, don't let the initial reactions to the movie trailers scare you. Seeing this movie will force you to think about our country and where it is heading, which I think is especially important during this election year.

Madness

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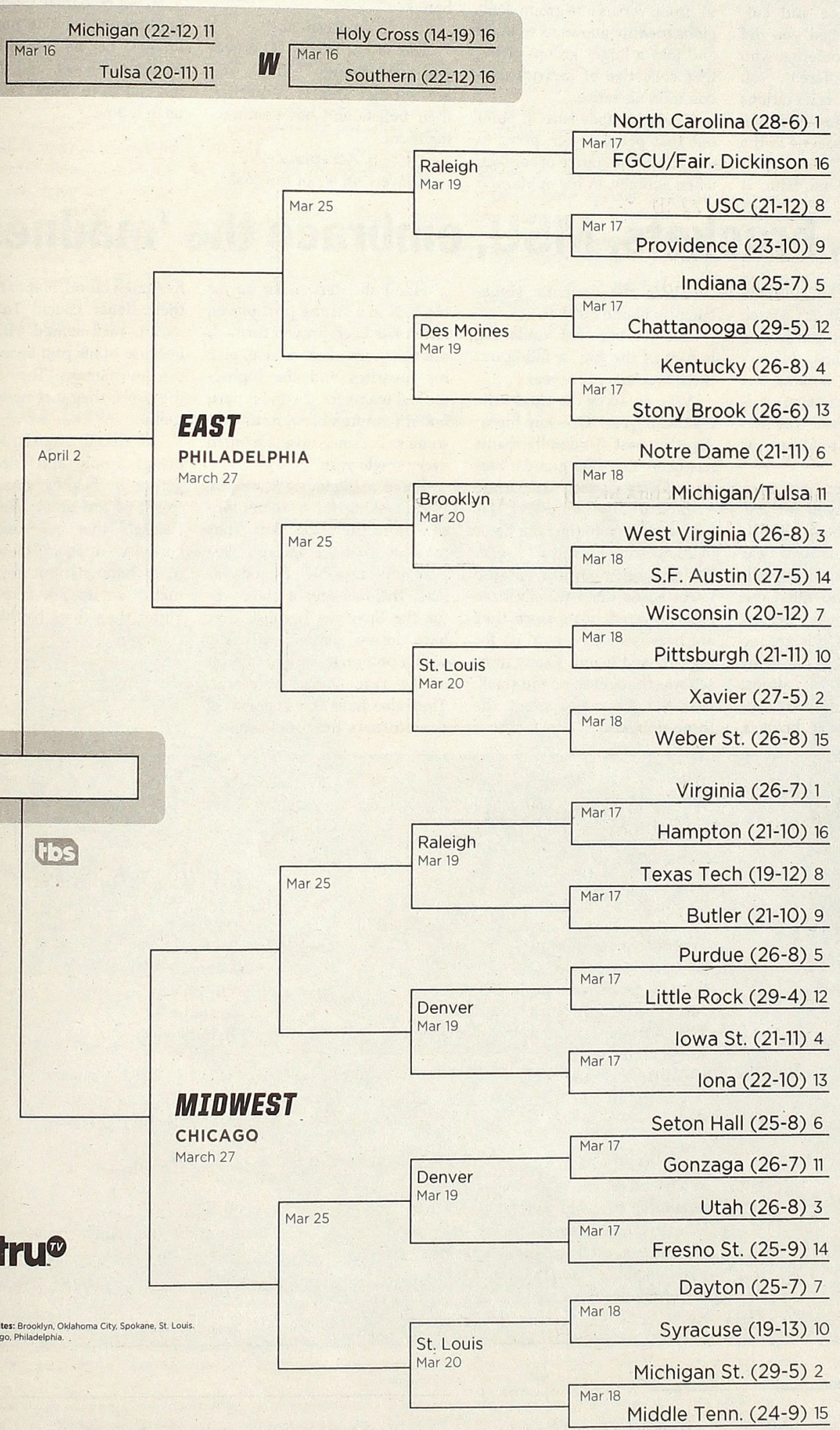


March 18 and 20 first-/second-round sites: Brooklyn, Oklahoma City, Spokane, St. Louis.
March 25 and 27 regional sites: Chicago, Philadelphia.

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forms of sports wagering

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NCAA.COM

An alternative to religious violence in six tolerant steps



Hannah Pikaart
Voices Editor

The Critical Issues Symposium was over two weeks ago, but I still find myself thinking back to Dr. Douglas Kindschi's lecture, "What is the Alternative to Religious Violence? A Christian Response." Kindschi started off by commenting on how seeing violence on the news all the time desensitizes us. These pictures and videos are presented to look like religious violence

specifically against Christians, when in reality, ISIS kills indiscriminately, killing Muslims as well.

While I thought the whole lecture was going to be rooted in the history of religious wars, Kindschi only touched on it briefly, stating that 10 million people alone were killed in 17th century Europe due to religious wars. The lecturer asked the audience to imagine living in a community that you rarely ventured out of, thus hardly encountering anyone who was substantially different in regards to cuisine, language and culture. Of course, when you did cross paths with someone who was completely different, you would have your reservations and judgements readily made. This was life for someone in the Middle Ages.

Now, think of your faith. If

you do not prescribe to a specific religion, think of a friend who does. People often find their identity within their religion. Seems harmless, right? Well, identity excludes, causing those of a certain faith to think "if they do not share my religion, then they do not share my humanity," Kindschi said. To further explain this point, Kindschi shifted to the idea of groups. Evolutionarily speaking, humans don't survive as individuals, but as groups. Groups then compete with one another to come out on top. It's a classic tale of in-group versus out-group. Religious identity allows us to bond and join a larger group, giving that collective of individuals a common narrative.

Kindschi made sure to point out that people often point to religion as the source of conflict, when actually, in his opinion, it

is human nature—secularism is the problem. The solution then is to find common values, such as your love of God, neighbor and stranger.

1. Find tolerance.

Kindschi remarked that this is the hardest step, but it is necessary.

2. Show hospitality towards another.

The latin root of hospitality is ospitare, which translates to "receive a stranger."

3. Understanding.

It is through conversation that we understand one another better.

4. Respect.

This is not saying "I respect you even though I think you are wrong." This is respecting their beliefs and not denouncing them.

5. Acceptance.

Conversion is not the goal.

I repeat conversion is not the goal. If you do not understand this step, look back at step # 4.

6. "Holy Envy."

This is an unfamiliar term to most, but the concept is relatively easy to understand. You look at other religions and take aspects that you appreciate, such as Islam's five pillars, and you wish that could be reflected in your own religious tradition. Keep in mind that you are not comparing your best to their worst.

Kindschi left the audience with a couple of final remarks. "Can we recognize God's image in someone who is not in my image?" Let us remember that we follow Jesus, and God did not call us to judge, God called us to follow.

'Cinderella' teams, brackets, MSU, embrace the 'madness'



Taylor Jones
Staff Columnist

Sunday night at 6 p.m. Most of us crowded around the television anxiously looking to find out who the next Cinderella is. However, in this case Cinderella isn't a princess, but rather a low-rated men's basketball team

who snuck into the NCAA tournament. That's right, it's March Madness, ladies and gentleman. For us basketball fans, this is a time we have been looking forward to since the day men's college basketball started this season. It's finally time to fill out our brackets.

Why do brackets captivate so many people? Well for one thing, I think that we all just enjoy bragging rights. Last year there was a predicted 40 million Americans who filled out brackets. But who had a perfect bracket last year? Odds are, no one, and I can predict not many will this year either. It is almost impossible to be perfectly correct when filling out a bracket.

We have the dramatic comebacks to blame for that.

But finding that underdog is part of the fun in filling out these brackets every year.

Who could be the Cinderella team this year? One key ingredient in past Cinderella teams has been shooting guards. Stephen Curry himself is a prime example of this after taking Davidson College to the Elite Eight in 2008 despite being a 10 seed. Guards are important because lower seeds don't usually have high-powered posts since they are heavily desired recruits for high-ranked teams. Curry himself was thought to be too small. However, he could shoot the three-pointers.

Good shooters make up for the lack in a strong post player, and it has been proven throughout the years. I, of course, pick my favorites and the higher-ranked teams for the most part, but it's impossible not to take some risks, since upsets happen every single year.

Being a Michigan State fan, I am looking for a championship from them this year. They made it to the Final Four last year and are a No. 2 seed this year. This has been a great year for the Spartans because they have heavy senior leadership with a potential National Player of the Year, Denzel Valentine. They also have the majority of the returners and some talented

freshmen blood. Not to mention their stellar coach, Tom Izzo, who is nick-named Mr. March because of his past success with the tournament. They have all the tools; they just need to use them.

All in all, March Madness brings family and friends together in healthy competition (most of the time). We fill out brackets that are usually the complete opposite of what actually happens. But hey, it's the month of upsets, and what is better than that? Nothing. It is tradition.

Anchor Staff Poetry

About Pi(e)

Adam Nottoli and Hope Hancock

Apple and pumpkin
Infinite numbers of pie
three point one four one

Our Calling

Adam Nottoli and Hope Hancock

We are being called
to write another haiku
Hope and Adam rock

Through Austria

Corben Barnett

Pt. 1

Tracks count to infinity
below us as we glide
through green, shimmering landscapes.
Headphones drown out
foreign languages and awkward silences,
voices in my head;
my inner angel and devil.

Pt. 2

A playlist repeats to infinity
as a friend refuses to apologize
to another friend for last night's offense.
Foreign languages and awkward silences
abound around them, though only the two
of them can hear anything that seems
out of the ordinary.

Drunk On A River

Alex Swain

Oh butterfly,
Why do you
Flutter by?
Oh butterfly.

News Reigns

Amber Carnahan

On what shall I say
about the great Anchor staff?
Making paper rain

ANCHOR

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Seek help at the Career Development Center for all your cover letter and resume needs in time for internships deadlines



Hannah Pikaart
Voices Editor

For the last two months I have been in full intern mode ... well, aspiring-intern mode. I have been working hard to perfect my resume and cover letter in anticipation for available internships that relate to my major and post-grad aspirations. With a little over a month left in the school year, it is crunch time to get those cover letters and resumes to potential summer employers. However, this process is not a cake walk. It's very easy to feel overwhelmed by the amount of work that goes into crafting these documents.

First, take a breath, then follow these steps:

Create a Google Doc for your resume. According to Hope College's Career Development Center, your resume should be "tailored to your employment goals, and emphasize relevant accomplishments and goals, while being concise and well-organized."

Resumes

1. Look at the Career Development Center's website for resume style guides.
2. Be prepared for multiple revisions. It's not you. You're trying to figure out what information is relevant in your resume and what is better left out. Whenever I apply for an internship or a job, I look through my resume and take out what is not useful to the position.
3. Include 'Relevant Work Experience.'
4. Corresponding dates should correlate to the jobs you've held.
5. If you're involved in extra-curriculars, try adding them and think of how those could relate

to responsibilities at the internship you're applying for. For example, I'm the Voices Editor for The Anchor, and the Hope College Odyssey chapter Editor in Chief, this is highly related to the magazine internships that I am applying for.

6. Use action verbs when talking about your duties.

7. Add an objective. What kind of internship are you looking for? What are you hoping to get out of it?

8. Make sure your GPA is up to date. It's sometimes hard for employers to gauge an applicant's competency, so they'll look at a student's or recent graduate's GPA to see how they did in their classes.

9. Do you have Adobe Photoshop experience? Are you an expert in social media? Add those to your special skills because those are employable.

Cover Letters

I'm not going to lie, writing a cover letter is hard. I went through 10 revisions alone for my Cosmopolitan.com cover

letter. However, when you form a solid cover letter, you can use it as a base for other internships.

Disclaimer: when you apply for another internship or job, it is important to add relevant material, which will require revision. After submitting my Cosmopolitan.com materials, I took that cover letter and transformed it into a Playboy internship cover letter. Then, I took that cover letter and brought it to the CDC for revision, and they showed me what to cut and how to restructure my paragraphs. From my numerous revisions and handful of meetings with Career Advisors these are my tips for you:

1. Create a letterhead

Find the name of the person who will read your cover letter. Do some research and feel free to call. You want to make this part personal.

2. In the introduction explain how you found the position. I found the Cosmopolitan.com internship on Ed2010.com, the mentoring and networking site

for print and digital journalism. As for Playboy, I have a contact at the company, and he gave me permission to use his name.

3. Use the body paragraphs to argue how your skills, knowledge, passion and experience relate to the position.

4. Try not to reiterate what is in your resume, such as your major, but elaborate on your experiences.

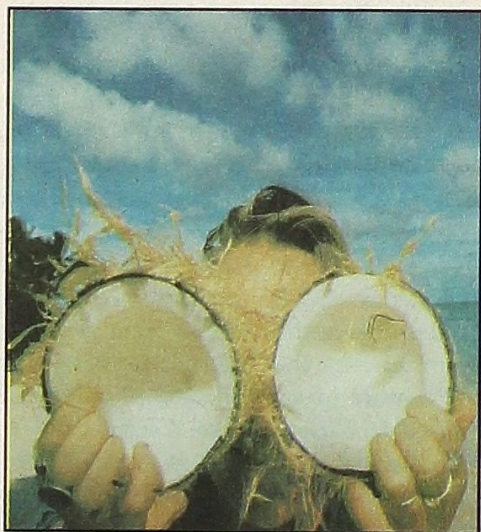
5. In the closing, thank the reader for his or her time and consideration. Also, mention how you will be proactive in following up with the one who is receiving your cover letter and resume.

My last tip for you is don't just take my word for it. Get a second and third opinion at the Career Development Center. Their highly skilled staff is at your disposal and are so happy to help you form materials that will help you later on in life. For all other questions, make an appointment with the CDC, or attend daily drop-in hours between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

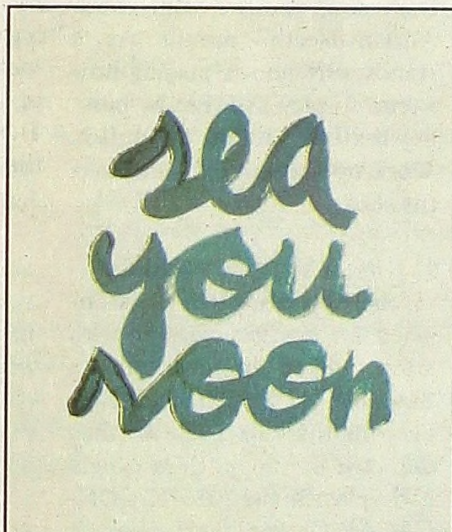
Be on the lookout for episode 3 of "The Anchor: Since 1887" on YouTube

Editor's choice

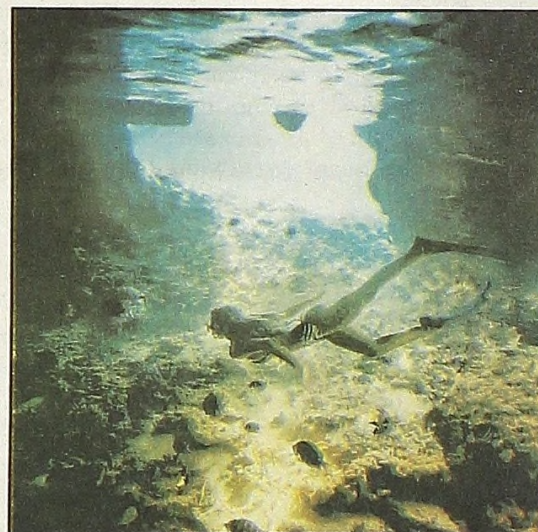
My Pin of the Week



Pinterest



Pinterest



Pinterest

This week I'm featuring three pins all surrounding a common theme. Can you guess what the theme is? It's the beach. I'm so envious of all my peers who have the opportunity to go away for spring break and enjoy the warmer climate and crystal blue waters down south. Meanwhile, when friends ask me what my plans are for spring break, I regrettably tell them I have a dentist appointment. I can only daydream about the salt on my lips, the warmth of the sun and the smell of the ocean.

Safe travels and happy spring break!

Want to see more of my pins?
Check out Hannah Jenae on Pinterest

Our Mission: *The Anchor* strives to communicate campus events throughout Hope College and the Holland community. We hope to amplify awareness and promote dialogue through fair, objective journalism and a vibrant Voices section.

Disclaimer: *The Anchor* is a product of student effort and is funded through the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on the Voices page are solely those of the author and do not represent the views of *The Anchor*. One-year subscriptions to *The Anchor* are available for \$40. *The Anchor* reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

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Habitually Hope: Beauty in Brokenness



Hope Hancock

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@HABITUALLYHOPE

I recently interviewed for a job at a large church near my hometown. The person interviewing me spent a great deal of time answering my own questions about the church and its attendees. As he was talking, he used a phrase that is one of my favorites. He said, "God uses broken people."

I can't, and won't try to, speak for the majority of students on Hope College's campus, but from my own experience, I have found that people are often extremely unwilling to admit their brokenness. Often enough, this manifests itself in a common criticism of Christians and the church as a whole.

"Christians are hypocrites."

How often have you heard that phrase? If I had a dollar for every time that I've heard someone express that sentiment, I would not even have

to think about the amount of money my four years of tuition has cost.

While "God uses broken people" is one of my favorite expressions of Christianity, "Christians are hypocrites" is easily one of my least favorites. As relational human beings, I believe that we all desire authentic relationships in which we can be free to share our vulnerabilities. I find these relationships with my close friends and family members. But I'll admit, I don't always find them in the church or in Christian circles. Church has become a place where people feel that they have to hide behind a mask of perfection. The Hope campus feels, at times, as though it operates similarly.

If I were skeptical of Christianity and walked into a space where it seemed like everyone had it together, I can't say that the thought "Christians are hypocrites" wouldn't come to mind. It probably would. In fact, it has. As a senior, I can look back on many memories when I encountered other Christians on campus and was shocked at how their claim of being a Jesus-follower didn't seem to align with things they were doing outside of Chapel and the Gathering.

However, in my criticism, I



PIXABAY

was forgetting one major part of the Christian faith.

God uses broken people.

The Gospel message is rooted in our brokenness. We need Jesus as our Savior because of our broken and sinful nature.

So why is it that Christians struggle to admit brokenness?

Why aren't we vulnerable with the very people who should understand the nature of the sins we struggle with and the salvation and forgiveness we find in Christ?

Why?

It's hard.

Life is hard.

Whether you are a Christian or adhere to a different belief system, life is difficult. The Bible does not promise us a free pass on life's hardships. Knowing this, and recognizing it as a part of the Christian walk, I ask, again, why is it so difficult for Christians to be vulnerable?

Personally, I struggle to open up myself to other Christians,

and really anyone around me, out of a fear of judgement. I assume that everyone else truly does have it together, which is a lie that I buy into. I buy into the masks that people wear, that I wear, believing that they are perfect, and I am not.

The reality of the situation is that Christians do not have it all together. And sometimes realizing this is hard. This can manifest itself in seeing Christians do things that might seem "not Christian-like." Thus, we stumble upon the idea that Christians are hypocrites.

After trusting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, Christians do not receive a free pass that guarantees sinless lives. Rather, the message of the Gospel is that by repenting from our sins, we can experience freedom and forgiveness. This isn't an excuse to live a life believing that we can do whatever we want because Jesus is loving and will forgive us. The Bible calls Christians

to repent of our sins and seek to live a life rooted in Christ's example. We are to turn from sin. When we do this, embracing our brokenness, we can embrace the beauty of overcoming sin. Jesus extends His perfect grace to us willingly and abundantly, even when we fall short. I don't think there is anything more beautiful than that, than having the opportunity to live in a loving, personal relationship with Jesus.

Our brokenness, as Christians and non-Christians, can be just that: beautiful. As Christians, we should embrace our brokenness and feel called to vulnerability and openness about our struggles. The church should become a vessel not of judgement but of encouragement and support. We should extend conversations about the reality of sin in our lives, acknowledging our own brokenness and discussing it with those around us. We need to shatter this negative concept that Christians are hypocrites and claim our brokenness, simultaneously proclaiming Christ's grace extended to us.

Yes we are broken.

Yes we are hypocrites.

Yes our brokenness is beautiful.

And yes, God can use it to further His Kingdom.

Sporty Spice: MLS clubs looking for tenacity



Nicole Metzler

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@NICOLE_JA

The 21st season of Major League Soccer (MLS) kicked off on March 6 and it's looking like it could be one of the most exciting. With 20 teams competing for the cup, it's anyone's game. What do the clubs need to do in order to make their case for the top? Keep reading for an analysis on how some of the teams may hope to accomplish that task.

New York City FC

NYCFC is facing some trouble. After having joined the league last season, the Manchester City-spawned club has failed to live up to the hype of their parent team. It's easy to understand why a team would place low on the table their first season, but consider their roster. World-class athletes like Andrea Pirlo, David Vila and Frank

Lampard. While nearing the end of their respective careers, these are still world-class athletes. A 17th place finish last year cannot be expected from a stacked roster.

Their first game of the season against the Chicago Fire came with a 4-3 scoreline, but their second game against Toronto FC tied at two each. NYCFC has all the resources necessary for a stellar run at the cup, though it seems that their problem is finding balance. Learning to blend so many different playing styles can be tricky. If they can do that, they'll make playoffs, no doubt.

Orlando City SC

The other club to have joined last season, Orlando City, has also been under some amount of scrutiny, though their case isn't the same as NYCFC's. While the team does have world renowned player Kaká on their sheet, he's been out injured with a thigh strain. As he sits on the bench, his team has taken two draws at the start of this season, one against the Fire and the other Real Salt Lake.

The team needs one thing: to be more selfish. That's not something you often advise your players to do, but in the case of

Orlando, it's a must. And this is coming straight from coach Adrian Heath's mouth. As it stands, Orlando is playing how I tend to play in FIFA: by passing the ball around too much. Work up some moxie and take the shot.

New York Red Bulls

The New York Red Bulls finished strong last season with a top spot on the table, though they lost to the Portland Timbers for the cup. Even so, they did earn the Supporters' Shield and a place in the 2016-17 CONCACAF Champions League. It should be smooth sailing from here then.

Maybe not.

The Red Bulls have conceded five goals in two games without capturing any for themselves. And it's not like these were stand-out teams. We're talking Toronto and Montreal Impact, here. So what happened?

The club lost Matt Miazga to Chelsea FC before the start of the season and their star scorer from last year, Bradley Wright-Phillips, did not have a single shot on target against Toronto. It's early to say, but it's looking like a rebuilding year for the Red Bulls.

Seattle Sounders

Two games in and zero wins for the 2015 semi-finalists. It seems the Sounders are also off to a bumpy start having lost to both Real Salt Lake and Sporting Kansas City. But Sounders fans have little to fear -- for now.

They weren't bad losses. The club showed their skill against two tough opponents. We'll have to watch and see what the next games have in store for the club, but I would venture to say that the Sounders will be back to winning ways very soon.

Portland Timbers

The reigning champions are coming into their third game with split results, winning their first against Columbus Crew and losing to San Jose Earthquake for the second. The bad news: Liam Ridgewell is out from a hamstring injury. The good news: the club just acquired now-former Vancouver Whitecaps FC striker Darren Mattocks.

While a little rough around the edges, Mattocks has the ability to turn his versatility prowess into a great option for a late substitute. There will be adjustment time, but Mattocks has already played for coach Caleb Porter at Akron and will likely meld

with the rest of the team fairly quickly.

FC Dallas

A 2-0 victory over Philadelphia Union on opening day gave fans hope for another strong season for the team who finished runner-up in the 2015 season. A 5-0 loss to Houston Dynamo six days later reversed those feelings into worry. The team conceded four goals within the first 30 minutes. So much for a solid start.

But in true MLS fashion, you win some and you lose some. FC Dallas needs to ride this one out, even though that may be a little harder considering their embarrassing own-goal against the Dynamo. I think this is a case of built-up dust. Spray some Pledge and wipe off the cobwebs, Dallas. The off-season is over.

With 14 other teams to consider, it's hard to make a strong case for anyone to win the title. The 2016 season of MLS is going to be centered around who can get on top and stay on top. What these teams really need is tenacity. Any club can win the cup. It's going to come down to who wants it the most and who's willing to fight the hardest for it.

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PERSPECTIVES

Embrace Madness: Bracket time

Adam Nottoli
SPORTS CO-EDITOR
@ADAMNOTTOLI

March is upon us and that means that the madness begins. It started Sunday when the official March Madness NCAA

brackets were released from ESPN. Competitors across the nation flood ESPN to take part in their "Tournament Challenge," a competition to see who can create the best bracket with a million dollar prize to

anyone who can craft a perfect bracket. However, nobody has ever created the perfect bracket, so most end up competing for glory among their friends to see who can get the highest ranked bracket. Personally, I've been

doing this competition for years with my friends and, honestly, I'm not the greatest expert, but here I'll be dishing out some free hints to help you with your bracket filling, or hurt your bracket a lot. We'll see.

First Round: Round of 64

16 vs. 1

Now, the Round of 64 is the hardest part. There are so many teams and how well you pick this first round determines how well you can pick the rest of the rounds. If you don't pick the winners in the first round, then your bracket is over. The first thing you want to do is look at the one versus the sixteen seeds. In the history of March Madness, a sixteen seed has never defeated a one seed, so unless this is the year that history changes forever, always pick the one seeds to win the first round. This year, that means North Carolina, Virginia, Oregon and Kansas.

14 vs. 3

Strangely, three seeded teams are only 8-4 against fourteen seeded teams in the last three tournaments; only a sixty-six percent win record. This makes for an interesting matchup as SF Austin are coming in on a twenty-game win-streak. This makes them an interesting dark horse team if they can pull off a win against West Virginia. I'm still picking Miami over a Buffalo team that's lost its most important games by 20+ points, Texas A&M, who've played exceptionally minus a few games, over Green Bay and Utah, who've really only dropped games to top ranked teams over Fresno State.

13 vs. 4

Thirteen seeds have done exceptionally well against four seeds since 2013. However, none have won in the last two years and I'm going with all four seeds to claim victory in this round. Although, consider a potential upset with Hawaii, making their first appearance in fourteen years, and playing well against strong opponents, even when putting up losses.

12 vs. 5

The five and twelve seeds are a weird section, because at least one twelve seed has won the round of 68 in every year except four in the history of March Madness. Personally, my favorite twelve seed this year is South Dakota State, a team that has been playing well recently, averaging .2 points per game more than Maryland, while allowing only 1.5 points more. Don't expect Little Rock-Arizona to defeat Purdue, the team who was ranked 10th in the season while falling to a five seed in the tournament.

15 vs. 2

Then I usually like to look at the number two seeds versus the number fifteen seeds. A few years ago, Florida Gulf Coast made it far into the bracket after earning the number fifteen seed and upsetting their opponents, but this is unlikely to happen again. Michigan State was a name up for contention in the number one seed decision and was ranked second overall in the regular season of basketball. They're likely to win this first round. Villanova is 10-2 coming off their last twelve games, although they're coming off a very recent loss to Seton Hall. Expect them to come back with a vengeance and a win. It's likely that the other 2 seeds will probably chalk up wins as well, so if you're playing the safe game, put them through to the next round.

11 vs. 6

There is almost always an eleven seed team upsetting a six seed, with all six seed teams winning only once in the round of 68 since 2000. A possible Notre Dame versus Michigan matchup could be interesting. But watch out for the Northern Iowa versus Texas matchup, with Northern Iowa going 2-0 against top 25 teams this season, they could look to be the team moving forward.

10 vs. 7

Since 2013, number seven seeds have won nine of twelve against number ten seeds, but I favor Virginia Commonwealth as a slight upset over Oregon State.

8 vs. 9

The eight versus nine seed matchups is a bit of a coin flip looking at the numbers. Technically eight seeds have the slight advantage, with a 63-61 record against nine seeds, but this is the spot that can really mess up your bracket. I'm going with St. Joe's over Cincinnati because of their better record against top 25 teams, and Butler over Texas Tech because of their three-point shooting. USC and Providence is an interesting matchup, because this season has shown both teams to choke in games against high-ranked opponents. Providence did take a win over Villanova, while USC remains winless against top 25 teams, giving the advantage to Providence. UCONN took the ACC Championship by storm and is an interesting team to look at versus Kansas.

Second Round: Round of 32

With this first round down, your next few rounds should look quite interesting, with three nine seeds in the second round and only one eight seed. However, if any of the eight or nine seeds are going to topple a number one seed in the round of 32, UCONN would be the strongest team to look at. However, their matchup is against Kansas who stands at an almost unanimous number one overall team in the regular season. This game could easily go either way. I did pick all number one teams to win in the three other games, and went with UCONN as the upset team.

In the matchup between the winners of the four versus thirteen and five versus twelve seeds, I gave the win to Duke over Baylor, Purdue over Iowa State, Indiana over Kentucky and Cal over South Dakota State. Then I went with SF Austin to continue their dominating performance and defeat Notre Dame, who I ended up pick-

ing to make it through the first round. Arizona has made it to the Elite Eight in the past two years, but I don't expect them to do it again, or even to make it to the round of sixteen. Miami should win this matchup. Texas A&M and Northern Iowa are both playing exceptionally against high-ranked teams and Northern Iowa even took down North Carolina, a team ranked as a one seed in the tournament, so I expect to see Northern Iowa making it to the Sweet Sixteen. Seton Hall is coming off of big wins against top ranked opponents and should be able to put that energy into a win in the second round against Utah.

Iowa is shooting very well from the three-point range, and Villanova has lacked when trying to defend these types of shots. That gives Iowa a very specific edge against Villanova that could potentially lead to the upset win, making Villanova the only two seed team I have losing in the second round.

Third Round: Sweet 16

Into the Sweet Sixteen, games start getting intense and this is where we really start to see the one and two seed teams losing. At this point, Michigan State has been playing well and has too much to prove to lose to Seton Hall in the round of sixteen. History says that two seeds should win this matchup, as they've taken 21 of 23 games against six seeds. I also expect Virginia's defense to keep playing strong and to take down Purdue to make it to the Elite Eight. If Northern Iowa makes it this far, I'm not sure what could possibly stop them and I'm picking them to upset Oklahoma as they've upset all the opponents so far. Can Duke beat Oregon?

Maybe. Will they? Probably not. Look for Oregon in the Elite Eight. Sadly, this is where I put an end to my hopeful run of SF Austin, as Xavier will likely prove too strong a matchup for them. But I do suspect North Carolina might be the second number one seed out of the tournament with a loss to Indiana. Strangely enough, number three seeds have lost three of the last four matchups with number seven seeds, so history tells that Iowa might be able to pull off the win over Miami. UCONN has my pick to keep their run going on into the Elite Eight. If they make it past the first two rounds, they'll be almost unstoppable.

Decide your fate

Remember, I'm no expert when it comes to March Madness or collegiate basketball, but these are the picks that I think we'll see, given the numbers and the way teams have played recently. In March Madness, the teams who've been playing the best recently usually end up doing the best in the tournament. That's why SF Austin and UCONN will be so much fun to watch when the time comes.

But, if analysis, numbers, hot-streaks and history aren't

up your alley, you can always fill out brackets the way I like to fill out my other ones. Decide each game by a coin flip or make a bracket with all the higher seeds winning or all the lower seeds winning. Or, why not pick the team with the coolest uniforms, or the team whose mascot would win in a grudge-match. However, you make your picks, make sure to make them, and if you're up to it, you can enter up to ten in ESPN's Tournament Challenge. Good luck!

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Wednesday March 16
Men's Lacrosse
vs. Defiance Ohio at 6 p.m.

IN BRIEF

HERRMANN IMPROVES SEED AT NCAA'S

Lone Hope College track and field NCAA qualifier Erin Herrmann ('17) improved on her seed of 17th this weekend at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships. Herrmann qualified for and ran the 3,000 meter race at the championships. Herrmann was initially seeded to finish 17th. After a well run race, Herrmann was able to move up five place, finishing 12th. Her time of 10 minutes, 1.21 came close to the school record of 9 minutes, 54 seconds. Her first mile of the race was just one second off the school record for the one mile at five minutes eight seconds. Herrmann also earned All-American honors this fall in cross country.

GARDNER AND MCAFFEE NAMED ALL-REGION

Ben Gardner ('16) and Maura McAfee ('16) were honored by D3hoops.com as part of their All Great Lakes Region teams. McAfee was selected for the first team, while Gardner claimed second-team honors. Each were one of fifteen players selected for the teams. This selection makes them eligible for consideration for the All-America team which will be selected during the NCAA Division III basketball tournament championship weekend. McAfee will leave Hope College with 1,406 points and 1,047 rebounds. Gardner finished with 1,295 points.

ELDER SCORES 100TH GOAL

Gunnar Elder ('17) continues his meteoric rise through the Hope lacrosse program. Since making a huge splash by leading the team in goals during his freshmen season, he has found more success. This week he scored his 100th career goal for the Flying Dutchmen in Hope's victory over Hiram College. Elder netted six against the Terriers. The Dutchmen return to action at home on Wed. March 16 against Defiance College, Ohio.

HOPE SPORTS HEAD FOR WARMER WEATHER

Hope sports hit the road next week for spring break training and competition trips. The women's lacrosse team heads to sunny Santa Barbara, California, while the men make a loop through Ohio, West Virginia and Illinois. Softball and baseball will swing away down in Florida, while the track and field teams enjoy meets in Georgia and training time in Florida.

Hope retains Commissioner's Cup lead

Duncan MacLean

SPORTS CO-EDITOR
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After a stellar showing from Hope College's winter athletes, the Flying Dutchmen continue to lead in Commissioner's Cup standings. Hope leads second-place Calvin College by three points and third-place Albion College by 34.5.

The Commissioner's Cup is tabulated and awarded based on the performance of MIAA athletes across all 22 of the conference's varsity sports for men and women.

Hope added to its total of 107 points this winter with two MIAA titles on the hardwood in men's and women's basketball, runner-up finishes in the pool for the women's swim and dive team and on the track from the women's indoor team. The men's swim team took home third, while the men's track team took fourth.

A new scoring formula adopted by the conference for the 2014-15 campaign awards the same spread of points for men's and women's sports. The basketball teams both grabbed nine points for their championships. The women's swim and dive and track and field teams took home eight a piece, men's swimming and diving took seven and men's track scooped up six points for a winter total of 47.



TOM RENNER



STEVE JOHNSON



TOM RENNER

FLIPS AND 'SHIPS — The women's basketball team hoists the MIAA tournament trophy after taking home the title and a subsequent nine Commissioner's Cup points (top). Sarah Sheridan ('16) was the MIAA's most valuable diver during their second place finish (bottom). Ben Gardner ('16) (right) lead this year's men's basketball team with consistent buckets.

Rival Calvin took home 48 total points from the winter season after sweeping swimming and diving, and running away with a women's track and field title. The Knights' men's track and field and women's basketball both finished second, while the Knight's men's basketball team took home a disappointing fifth place.

After the fall seasons, Hope

lead Calvin by four points. They got there with championship efforts from both golf teams as well as the women's cross country team. On the pitch, the Flying Dutch took home a runner-up tournament finish, while the men settled for third, losing in the semi-final. The volleyball team fell to Calvin in the tournament championship to take second place and even the football

team contributed two points with a last-place finish.

While Calvin closed the gap slightly this winter, a strong outing by the spring teams should be enough to close off the year with Hope's 36th Commissioner's Cup victory. Hope leads the MIAA in cup victories with 35, followed by Albion with 14, Kalamazoo College with 13 and Alma College with five.

Last year, Calvin took home a rare Commissioner's Cup victory by winning the men's all sports award by ten points over Adrian College and taking second to Hope in women's sports by just two points.

Looking ahead, Hope's baseball team is poised to take home big points this spring, beginning their season ranked second in the MIAA behind Adrian. Calvin is ranked fourth behind Kalamazoo. On the small-diamond, Hope softball is ranked third while Calvin is fifth.

Calvin will look to make up some points on the lacrosse field where they hold a first place pre-season ranking on the women's side. Fortunately, the Knights were dealt a dead-last ranking in men's lacrosse, where Hope knotted up a tie for fourth.

This year's Commissioner's Cup competition will come down to the wire with Calvin looking to capitalize on newly-found across-the-board relevance in all the sports.

The Dutchmen will have to represent well this spring in order to sustain their historic dominance of the Commissioner's Cup award. The fall and winter athletes have carried Hope well thus far, now it is time for the spring athletes to shine. With the power of some of these teams possess, another cup is well within Hope's grasp.

Baseball takes two at Franklin Today in sports headlines

Nicole Metzler

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Three road games against the Franklin College Grizzlies last weekend left the Flying Dutchmen baseball team at 2-1 for the start of their season. Hope College took Friday's game 5-2 and split the doubleheader on Saturday 2-5 and 7-1.

Ryan Konkle ('16) lead the team with runs on Friday, driving in two. His first came in the third inning, bringing in JP Batts ('17) to score. His second appeared in the fifth, this time with Brady VanderWeele ('16) making it back home to take the scoreline to 2-0.

Nicholas Holt ('19) took his turn in the sixth and batted in Nicholas LePore ('19) while advancing Nick Glowacki ('16)

to third. VanderWeele hit a grounder, sending Glowacki in for another Hope run.

The final run came in the top of the ninth with a double by designated hitter Luke Brower ('16), bringing in Landon Brower ('18) to secure the win.

Jake Chipka ('16) pitched for 5 ½ innings, letting in the only two runs from Franklin in the fifth. He was relieved by Eric Plaehn ('17) and then Matt Glowacki ('16). They combined to face 16 batters who were refused a chance to raise their side of the scoreboard.

The second game of the season handed the Dutchmen their first loss. Franklin had no trouble reversing the tables to capture the win, scoring runs in the third, sixth, seventh and eighth innings. Hope's first run

was scored by Batts in the seventh thanks to a ground ball by Konkle. Konkle struck again in the ninth with a double to send Bradley Kottenko ('19) home.

The Dutchmen brought a heavy dose of revenge to the Grizzlies for the second game on Saturday. Hope brought 14 hits to Franklin's six.

Potentially the biggest play of the game occurred when Luke Brower hit a two-run triple in the top of the fifth, while he himself found home later that inning with the help of an error on Holt, whose advancement to first allowed for Luke to score.

Another triple came from Jonathon Sojka ('19) in the seventh, sending Konkle in for a fifth Hope run. Sojka didn't stay on the diamond for long as LePore hit him in shortly after.

Other RBIs came from VanderWeele in the first and Glowacki in the ninth.

Coty Franklin ('16), Mitch Rietsma ('16) and Connor Jackson ('19) took turns on the pitcher's mound, with Franklin playing seven innings and Rietsma and Jackson splitting the other two evenly. Franklin threw six strikeouts and five hits.

Hope will continue their season with a series of games during their spring break trip to Florida. The first home game of the season will come on March 26 when they play the Scots of Alma College at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

There's a world outside of March Madness. Here are some other top headlines from the sports universe:

Students at Catholic Memorial School banned from game after anti-Semitic chant

Catholic Memorial's student section was bare during the Massachusetts high school Division I state semi-final game against Cambridge Rindge and Latin School due to chants from a previous game. The school was playing Newton North High School, a predominantly Jewish school, when some of the students started to yell, "You killed Jesus" at the opponents.

WTA says Sharapova made an "honest mistake"

Steve Simon, CEO of the Women's Tennis Association, spoke about the ongoing investigation of Maria Sharapova after her failed drug test at the Australian Open earlier this year. The drug Sharapova had been taking, meldonium, was added onto the banned drugs list in January and the Russian player claims she wasn't aware of the change.

Redskins new stadium to feature surfing moat

When the Washington Redskins envisioned their new facilities, they thought outside the

box. With Danish architecture firm Bjarke Ingels Group, the team has been able to accommodate all of their needs – and wants – into their initial plans. Other features include parks, bridges and areas to propel from the top of the structure.

Martavis Bryant drops appeal to NFL for drug-related suspension

The wide receiver from the Pittsburgh Steelers will face a one-year suspension from the game after the NFL released a statement saying he had violated the league's policy for substances of abuse. Bryant will check into rehab and undergo evaluation for depression and other mental health issues, according to USA Today.

NFL officially admits to link between football and CTE

Jeff Miller, the NFL's senior vice president for health and safety, admitted there was a link between playing football, head trauma and chronic traumatic encephalopathy during a roundtable discussion on concussions in front of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce, according to ESPN. It was the first time an official from the league has affirmed the connection. The league has previously denied all claims.

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